USING THE PERMITTING INFORMATION DATA STANDARD
November 2003

The Permitting Information Data Standard came about when we recognized that the original permitting standard covered only a fraction of the permitting data that different programs across the Agency wanted to share. The Permitting Information Data Standard is a result of addressing this need by adding information that is believed to be of interest to multiple programs. Once the implementation date has passed, the new data standard will supercede and eventually replace the initial Permitting Data Standard.

The Permitting Information Data Standard was approved by the EDSC on July 29, 2003, and the business rules that accompany this standard were adopted by the Agency on November 12, 2003. The Permitting Information Data Standard extends the type of data standardized in the initial Permitting Data Standard through the addition of data elements that relate to the activities or characteristics at a location that were considered in assessing the need for a permit, the particular limits or conditions imposed by a permit, and any reporting or monitoring required by a permit. General identification and administrative tracking data elements that were part of the initial standard were also incorporated in the Permitting Information Data Standard which fully replaces the original.

Both data standards are currently in effect; however, we are phasing out the initial permitting standard and anyone seeking to exchange permit-related information that conforms with EDSC data standards should refer to the Permitting Information Data Standard.

What does the Permit Standard Require?
Agency information systems or collection requests that exchange permit information must conform to the standard if these systems or collections request, store, or exchange permit information. At a minimum, all EPA information systems that exchange permit information with Agency or with partner systems must include the following data elements in each exchange:

C   Permit Name or Permit Number/Identifier;
C   Permit Type;
C   Organization Formal Name (for the issuing organization's name incorporated by reference from the Facility Identification Data Standard); and
C   Affiliation Type (for the issuing organization's role incorporated by reference from the Facility Identification Data Standard).

The purpose of the Permitting Information Data Standard is to:

C   Provide a consistent and unambiguous way to identify permit information across the Agency;
C   Provide EPA with the ability to combine environmental data from different laws and analyze that data for consistency and other errors; and
C   Help EPA integrate and share facility information across multiple information systems, programs, and governments.

Approaches for Standard Implementation

Methods of Conformance

The following are common methods of conformance:

C   Adopting the applicable standard names, definitions, and formats in the information system, or

C   Keeping the data elements the same in your system, but documenting the mapping of system data elements to the standard names, definitions and formats. If you are using XML to transfer data from your system to another EPA or state partner system, you should use the equivalent XML tag name, provided in the Environmental Data Registry (www.epa.gov/edr).

Additional options for conformance are possible, as long as the requirements of the business rules are taken into consideration. System managers must be able to map applicable system data elements to the standard data elements.

Data Standards Branch Services

The Data Standards Branch can support your conformance efforts through the following services:

C   Technical support - The Data Standards Branch has staff dedicated to helping program and system managers understand the data standards and their associated business rules. Data Standards Branch representatives can meet with managers, give presentations, training, or simply answer questions as they arise.

C   Conformance reviews - We review your system documentation to identify and assess data standards conformity issues with your system.

C   Environmental Data Registry (EDR) tools - The EDR maintains the data standards and allows users to compare data standards against their own system data elements using the Compare Tool. Data Standards can also be downloaded in various database formats, such as Oracle or comma delimited.

For More Information

The Office of Environmental Information (OEI), Data Standards Branch (DSB) manages the development and implementation of the Permitting Information Data Standard. For more information, please visit the data standards Web page in the Environmental Data Registry (www.epa.gov/edr) or contact a Data Standards Branch representative:

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